

In The Specification:

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16 and the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 7, as follow:

Paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16:

The conduit structure includes a substantially rigid seafloor riser support 50 whose lower end 52 is anchored to the seafloor and usually is rigidly fixed to the seafloor as by piles 56. The riser support 50 is a rigid frame that has an upper end 54 that lies a plurality of meters above the seafloor, preferably at least five meters and more preferably at least ten meters above the seafloor. The height B is at least 15% of the seafloor depth A, preferably at least 20% of the seafloor depth, and more preferably at least 30% of the seafloor depth. The vertical distance M' between the top of the riser support and the bottom of the loaded (80% of maximum load) vessel is preferably less than 50% of the sea depth A, so the riser support significantly reduces the length of flexible risers 46. The flexible risers 46 extend from the upper end 54 of the riser support in double catenary curves to the vessel 12. Applicant uses the term "double catenary curves" to indicate that one portion 60 of the flexible risers extend at a downward incline from the upper end 54 of the seafloor riser support to a lowermost point 62 along the risers (in the quiescent or static position of the vessel, which is illustrated), while another portion 64 of the risers extend at an upward incline from the point 62 to the vessel. Such double catenary curve is known to provide high flexibility.

Paragraph beginning on page 6, line 7:

Fig. 2 is a side elevation view of the riser support 50, which is rigid, whose lower end 52 is connected to the seafloor preferably in a fixed connection and whose upper end 54 lies a plurality of meters above the seafloor. The conduit 42 includes a rigid pipe 70 that is fixed at a plurality of locations spaced apart by a plurality of meters along the pipe, to the rigid support. The rigid pipe has a lower end 72 adjacent to the seafloor (preferably within about one meter of the seafloor).

There may be additional pipe lengths 74 that extend along the seafloor away from the structure. The rigid pipe 70 has a far end 76 which is close to the top of the rigid pipe and which lies just beyond a curved rigid pipe section 80 that is preferably curved between 45° and 135° and that is illustrated as curved about a quarter of a circle (90°). This results in the pipe far end 76 extending at a downward incline away from the curved pipe section. As seen in Fig. 2, the rigid pipe 70 extends at an upward-forward (F) incline, while the flexible riser 46 extends at a downward-forward incline from the top of the riser support. The flexible riser 46 has an inner end 82 that is fixed to the far end 76 of the rigid pipe. A bend stiffener 84 that allows bending at only a large radius of curvature, may lie around the inner portion of the flexible riser 46 if required to control motion at this connection point. As mentioned above, the riser extends in a double catenary curve from its inner end at 82 to the vessel.